

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT

Please amend the paragraph on page 26, lines 11-23 of the specification as follows:

Please amend page 6, lines 18-29 as follows:

"Examples of mutant forms of HBsAg are those having the following substitutions relative to the wild type in the region of the "a" determinant:

Mutant HBsAg I ("NP" HBsAg): met to ile at amino acid 133; phe to his at amino acid 134; and asp to val at amino acid 144 (SEQ ID NO: 7);

Mutant HBsAg II ("MAM" HBsAg): met to ile at amino acid 133; phe to asn at amino acid 134; pro to ser at amino acid 142; ser to leu at amino acid 143; and gly to lys at amino acid 145 (SEQ ID NO: 8);

Mutant HBsAg III ("SZ" HBsAg): gly to arg at amino acid 145 (SEQ ID NO:9);

Mutant HBsAg IV ("SP" HBsAg): ser to met at amino acid 143 (SEQ ID NO:10)."